

# Alaska Commission on Aging

## Senior In-Home Services (SIH) Grants

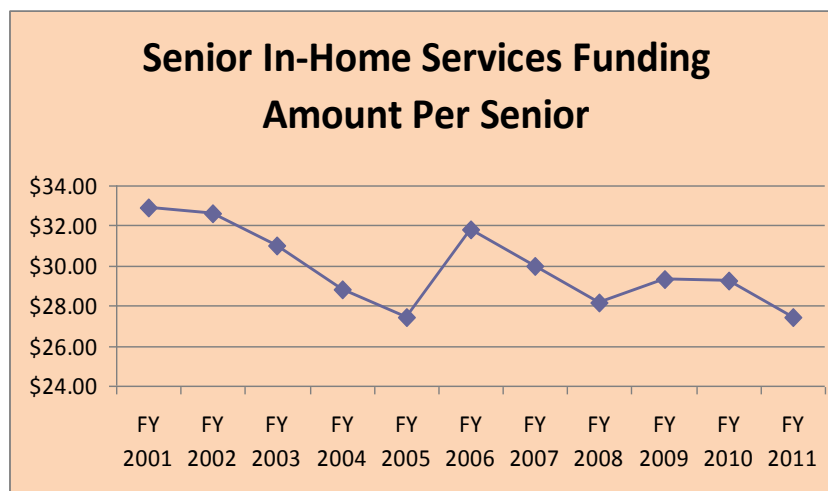
### DHSS Division of Senior & Disabilities Services

### Senior Community-Based Grants Component

**Problem Statement:** Vulnerable elderly Alaskans living at home with debilitating health conditions and Alzheimer's disease and related dementia (ADRD) are at risk for injuries and early nursing home placement due to insufficient home and community-based long-term support services that provide enhanced care coordination, chore services, respite and extended respite care. Without access to appropriate in-home supports, elderly Alaskans recovering from hospital stays related to hip injuries, surgeries or illness are at risk for delayed recovery or relapse and hospital re-admission. Older Alaskans living in rural areas have limited or no access to these services. Since 2001, the amount of funding available per senior has declined as Alaska's senior population increases at a rate of 6% annually.

**Proposal:** Administered by the Division of Senior and Disabilities Services (SDS), this funding will increase multiple year grants to Senior Home- and Community-Based Service providers to provide care coordination, chore and respite services for seniors and unpaid family caregivers to address growing waitlists for Senior In-Home (SIH) services (142 seniors who qualify for services but receive none and 108 seniors who receive partial services, per SDS 2011 reports). The funds will reduce the need for nursing home placement by providing appropriate supports that allow elderly persons to maintain their health and independence in their homes and will provide start-up funds for one new program in an underserved area. This project targets adults with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia and Alaskans age 60 and older with physical disabilities or mental health conditions who are at risk for being institutionalized; older persons having greatest social and economic need; Alaska Native elders; and older Alaskans living in rural areas. This increment requests a total of \$500.0 (\$250.0 GF and \$250.0 GF/MH) to the \$2,492.3 baseline.

The demand for SIH grant-funded services continues to grow with the senior population growing at a rate of 6% annually, of the "oldest-old" (persons age 85 years and older) and an increasing number of elderly persons having ADRD who are at risk for nursing home placement. In FY2010, this program served 1,308 older Alaskans through fifteen provider agencies.



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*Ensuring the dignity and independence of all older Alaskans and assisting them through planning, advocacy, education and interagency cooperation to lead useful and meaningful lives.*

**Recommendation:** The Alaska Commission on Aging (ACoA) supports an increase in funding for Senior In-Home Services to the Senior and Disabilities Services senior community-based grants component in the amount of \$500.0. The ACoA appreciates the Governor's inclusion of \$250.0 GF in his FY 2013 budget for Senior In-Home Services. ACoA recommends that the full \$500.0 GF increment request be added to the baseline in order to fully address growing waitlist needs for these important services for elderly Alaskans and their family caregivers.

